

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-14, without prejudice.

Claims 1-14 (cancelled).

Please add the following claims:

Claim 15 (new). Apparatus for applying a preload to a screw in a dental implant system, comprising: a tool having one end adapted to apply a preload to a screw of a dental implant system, the implant system comprising a fixture having one end adapted for osseointegration into a jawbone, the other end adapted to receive a supporting member for a dental prosthesis; the tool including an ultrasonic transducer disposed toward the one end for measuring stress within the screw as a preload is being applied by the tool; means for transmitting a sonic impulse at a predetermined frequency through the screw; and means for calculating and displaying the pre-load on the screw.

Claim 16 (new). The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the ultrasonic transducer comprises a 20MHz PZT element.

Claim 17 (new). The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the ultrasonic transducer has a diameter of 0.8 mm.